

HOUSE I

X00XER86-3950x/1

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS**  
Routing Slip

	ACTION	INFO
1. D/OCA		X
2. DD/Legislation		X
3. DD/Senate Affairs		X
4. Ch/Senate Affairs		
5. DD/House Affairs		X
6. Ch/House Affairs	X	
7. Admin Officer		
8. Executive Officer		X
9. FOIA Officer		
10. Constituent Inquiries Officer		
11.		
12.		

SUSPENSE      Oct 15 86  
Date

Action Officer:	
Remarks:	

Completed 10/1/86 "telephonically"

MMM Oct 1 86  
Name/Date

To  
by

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL	X			
14	D/PAO		X		
15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
17	D/SOVA		X		
18	NIO/USSR		X		
19					
20					
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		15 Oct 1986 Date			

Remarks

To 13: Please prepare appropriate response

Executive Secretary

30 Sept 86

Date

3637 (10-81)

STAT

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## U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE

ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

No. 3950x/1

September 26, 1986

Honorable William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

The publication of The Target is Destroyed by Seymour Hersh has caused a flood of questions to the Committee regarding the shootdown of KAL 007 on August 31, 1983. A major premise of the Hersh book is that the United States contended at the time of the shootdown that the Soviets knew they were firing at a civilian airliner, but that the actual intelligence did not justify this contention.

The essence of the Administration's initial position, as I understand it, was stated by Secretary Shultz at a news conference on September 1, 1983 when he said, "... We can see no excuse whatsoever for this appalling act." Later in the conference, the Secretary answered a question, saying, "... The aircraft that shot the commercial airliner down moved itself into a position with the aircraft so that with the eye you could inspect the aircraft and see what you're looking at."

A New York Times article of September 5 stated that Administration officials acknowledged that the Soviets may have initially confused the Korean 747 with an RC-135. The article claimed that "The Administration continued to maintain that there was no way the Russians could have mistaken the identity of the plane at the time they shot it down." The White House Press Office repeatedly said that there was "irrefutable" intelligence showing that the Soviets had visually identified Flight 007 as a civilian airliner before destroying it. Three weeks later, on September 29, a Washington Times article stated, "The Soviet pilot who shot down Korean Air Lines Flight 007 on September 1 told his military commanders upon being debriefed that he knew the airplane was a civilian aircraft, according to U.S. intelligence and military sources."

My impression, then, is that the Administration's position was at the time immediately following the incident that the Soviets knowingly shot down a civilian airliner for intruding into their airspace. I am not aware of any change in the Administration's position thereafter.

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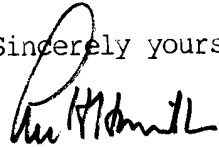
I would like to understand the following:

1. Am I correct in my understanding of the Administration's position? What was the intelligence available at the time that was relied upon for the Administration's statements?
2. Did the intelligence estimates subsequently change?
3. If they did change, why did the Administration not correct its previous statements?
4. Does the Intelligence Community now believe that the Soviets were confused as to the correct identification of their target?

I would appreciate your views on this matter.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee H. Hamilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "H".

Lee H. Hamilton  
Chairman